

(3) to develop an integrated, workable and comprehensive data management information processing system that will make information on unique and significant features obtained by the program available for research and management purposes; and

(4) to encourage cost-sharing partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities that will assist in transferring exploration technology and technical expertise to the program.

#### SEC. 6. INTERAGENCY FINANCING.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and other Federal agencies involved in the program, are authorized to participate in interagency financing and share, transfer, receive and spend funds appropriated to any federal participant the program for the purposes of carrying out any administrative or programmatic project or activity under this section. Funds may be transferred among such departments and agencies through an appropriate instrument that specifies the goods, services, or space being acquired from another Federal participant and the costs of the same.

#### SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out the program—

(1) \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2010; and

(2) \$55,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2016.

#### EXTENDING LIABILITY INDEMNIFICATION REGIME FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5245.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5245) to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5245) was read for the third time and passed.

#### NORMAN Y. MINETA RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5163.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5163) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide the Department of Transportation a more focused research organization with an emphasis on innovative technology, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, H.R. 5163, the Norman Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act, will be considered by the Senate today. I support H.R. 5163 and look forward to its enactment into law.

H.R. 5163 will realign the current Research and Special Programs Administration, creating two new entities; the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Research and Innovative Technologies Administration. Each new entity will be led by an Administrator.

Section 2 of the bill provides a new Section 108 of Title 49, creating the new Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In 108(c), the bill creates the Administrator position, as follows:

(c) ADMINISTRATOR.—The head of the Administration shall be the Administrator who shall be appointed by the President, by and with advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be an individual with professional experience in pipeline safety, hazardous materials safety, or other transportation safety

By spelling out qualifications for its new Administrator, Congress is seeking to enhance the prospects for success for the new Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

The new Research and Innovative Technologies Administration is created by amending Section 112 of title 49, eliminating reference to the Research and Special Programs Administration and modifying its powers and duties. Aside from adding the position to the Executive Schedule Pay Rate, H.R. 5163 does not address the new Administrator, Research and Innovative Technologies Administration.

As with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, success of the Research and Innovative Technologies Administration will rest to a significant degree on the effectiveness of its leadership. Its Administrator should be well qualified. He or she should be an individual with professional experience in transportation research, research management, research program development, education and training in transportation and transportation-related fields and in transferring technologies into real world applications.

I hope that the President will apply these qualifications when selecting a candidate for Administrator, Research and Innovative Technologies Administration.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5163) was read the third time and passed.

#### AMENDING THE TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY ESTUARY AND BEACH SEWAGE CLEANUP ACT OF 2000

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4794, received from the House.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4794) to amend the Tijuana River Valley Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000 to extend the authorization of appropriations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the matter be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4794) was read the third time and passed.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2986

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2986 be placed directly on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2986

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to consideration of S. 2986, the debt limit extension bill; provided that there be 6 hours of debate only, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee or their designees; provided further that no amendments be in order to the measure, and following the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to a vote on passage, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDING TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2618 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2618) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend medicare cost-sharing for the medicare part B premium for qualifying individuals through September 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be